



GEORGIA STATEWIDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

The need for statewide coordination, communication, and collaboration is currently being addressed through the Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force. The importance of having a statewide response focused on eradicating human trafficking in Georgia is of the utmost priority of the Governor's Office as well as the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. In that vein, the CJCC is currently carrying forward the dedicated response to addressing the need for a unified strategy that works to address exploitation in Georgia by functioning as the backbone support and coordinating agency for the Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force.

The mission of the Task Force is to protect the citizens of Georgia from perpetrators and systems of sexual exploitation while concurrently working to support recovery of CSEC victims to ensure that they are ready for college, work, and a successful future.

The Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force operates by a targeted, strategic framework which consists of individual Work Groups addressing the five elements of the trafficking continuum:

Vulnerability→Recruitment→Exploitation→Withdrawal→Reintegration (shown below):



Specifically, the Task Force functions based on eight objectives: Community Awareness and Education; Youth Aware And Safe; Deterring Traffickers And Buyers; Keeping At-Risk Youth Safe; Apprehending, Investigating, And Prosecuting; Examining Labor, International, And Adult Sex Trafficking; Survivors Supported And Protected; and Survivors Recovering And Thriving. The eight Work Groups, created and launched in 2015, operate under the umbrella of these defined objectives.

Under the Collective Impact Framework, the CJCC provides a designated staff member whose vital headship role is to coordinate, monitor, and support the work of the Task Force by leading the development and implementation of the initiatives that are produced within it. This includes full-time management and leadership of the united work of the Task Force through the coordination of representatives from federal, state, and local government agencies, victim service providers, law enforcement, NGOs, and advocacy groups who collaborate under this framework toward the united mission of the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force's overall goal of making a long-term commitment to addressing and combating exploitation in Georgia. Relatedly, it is important to note that the Collective Impact Framework's approach (Hanleybrown, Kania, and Kramer; 2012), moves a step beyond linking agencies. Rather, it links sectors within which are numerous agencies and organizations. In this vein, the Task Force has fully recognized that in order to ensure steady progress toward achieving success under this framework, it is concurrently essential to have robust representation on both the Partner and Affiliate Levels from multiple disciplines and diverse geographical regions throughout the state to make certain a statewide reach is attained. Therefore, as a result of CJCC's targeted recruitment efforts, the Statewide Task Force has seen much growth in this representation in 2015, to include 44 Partner-Level Agencies,



28 Affiliate-Level Agencies, and 103 Work Group Members who have committed to working collaboratively to address this issue.

Presently, Work Groups are developing and implementing projects to address gaps in education and services relating to exploitation in Georgia. Each project has clearly identified the target population to be addressed where a change in knowledge, behavior, attitudes, or conditions will occur as a result of the work. Projects will impact an identified risk factor of exploitation, guided by the eight goals of the Task Force developed to address one of the five key elements of the trafficking continuum (above). When all projects are being implemented, the full continuum is being impacted—resulting in “Collective Impact.” One of the clear innovations of this framework is the way it structures the work so that numerous projects will be proceeding concurrently to ensure that multiple aspects of the Human Trafficking issue are being addressed simultaneously. In this way, the Work Groups Members conceptualize, plan, and implement innovative projects designed to identify a gap or limitation in existing activities, outputs, and outcomes relative to collective impact goals for which innovation is needed due to the existing system’s inability or unlikeliness to attempt said innovation. This approach allows the Task Force to address needs that either aren’t being addressed by established programs in the service system, or aren’t being addressed to the needed level of frequency, intensity, or duration. In cases where projects successfully make a vast difference in terms of impact, such projects will be transitioned into permanent programs that become a part of the establish system, led by a Partner-Agency of the Task Force. This transition will be guided not only by the Task Force’s Management Team, but also by the Task Force’s Advisory Board, comprised of subject matter experts from across the State of Georgia. This Advisory group, currently in the preliminary stages of development, will not only guide project transitions, but will also provide input concerning progress toward reaching collective impact; assist in addressing barriers to progress; provide guidance on matters of policy and strategy; and conduct efforts to advocate at local, state, regional, and national levels for the Task Force. This Board will offer the Task Force its “statewide presence and reach” and will be instrumental in state-level efforts concerning legislation, conferences, and policy changes.

In closing, Work Groups are structured to engage Task Force Members in actions that *generate specified outputs* that together are capable of *producing outcomes* as confirmed by quantified indicators, such that the combined effects of outcomes across all projects achieve measurable progress toward collective impact. Ultimately, the strived-for end-result of the project action plan, project implementation, and project management is to achieve the anticipated community-level outcomes. These outcomes may be, but are not limited to: increased cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among multidisciplinary entities throughout the state; new and/or improved policies, laws, regulations, protocols, processes, tools and curriculums; and increased knowledge, awareness, and skills.

Thus far in 2015, the Task Force has successfully concluded “Phase One” (Jan-March), “Phase Two” (April-June), and “Phase Three” (July-September) of the expansion which included: targeted recruitment to fill identified gaps in key fields; the appointing of Chair Agencies and headship positions for each Work Group; completion of the full training sessions with the 2015 Chairs in addition to all 103 Work Group Members; convening of the monthly Management Team meetings; facilitation of the Phase One and Phase Two Quarterly Task Force meetings; the official launch of all eight 2015 Work Groups; the completion of all April, May, and June project planning sessions; and the completion of all July, August, and September project development sessions. As we look towards the commencement of “Phase Four” (October-December), we are confident and optimistic in the continued development and success of the work of the Georgia Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force.